

AN ABSOLUTE BIBLE AND AN ABSOLUTE THEOLOGY

June 1, 1996 (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org; for instructions about subscribing and unsubscribing or changing addresses, see the information paragraph at the end of the article) -

The only way to have faith in an absolute Bible today is to receive the old Bible handed down to us from history. To reject the Received Text and the versions founded upon it, such as the Authorized Version in English, is to launch oneself upon the seas of uncertainty and relativism. This is admitted by many textual critics, though they do not believe this is a bad thing. Kenneth Clark makes this admission: "We stand today where Griesbach and Scholz stood long ago, suspicious that the critical text 'received by all' is not yet as critical as it must be but knowing not how we shall achieve our goal. ... despite all the progress that has been made, no one knows better than the textual critic how vast is the task that remains. ... Our generation may attain to no finality..." (Kenneth Clark, "The Manuscripts of the Greek New Testament," New Testament Manuscript Studies edited by Merrill Parvis and Allen Wikgren, University of Chicago Press, 1950, pp. 9,13).

If one would have an absolute Bible and an absolute theology, he must cleave to the old Text. Consider the words of Frederick Grant, Union Theological Seminary:

"The triumph of the textus receptus in the seventeenth century was characteristic of an era of absolutism in theology..." (Frederick Grant, "The Citation of Greek Manuscript Evidence in an Apparatus Criticus," New Testament Manuscript Studies edited by Merrill Parvis and Allen Wikgren, University of Chicago Press, 1950, p. 82).

Grant is correct in his assessment. He fails, though, to note the corresponding fact: The triumph of the critical text in the 20th century is characteristic of an era of relativism in theology. This is a fact of history, friends. To Grant, who is one of the modernists who translated the Revised Standard Version, absolutism in theology is not desired. He rejected the faith once delivered unto the saints. In one of his books he says, "We may admit at once that the older view of Jesus' life and ministry was NOT ENTIRELY HISTORICAL" (The Beginnings of Our Religion, New York: Macmillan Co., 1934).

We have written two books to document the theological corruption which underlies the modern versions and the critical text. The first is FOR LOVE OF THE BIBLE: Battle for the KJV and the TR from 1800 to Present by D.W. Cloud. 450 pages. Hard cover. \$29.95. The second is MODERN VERSIONS FOUNDED UPON APOSTASY. 78 pages. \$5.00. Include 12% S/H, minimum \$2.50.

To reject the old text and the old versions is to pull up the anchor and to set adrift upon the constantly-changing seas of modern textual criticism. I have hundreds of books and articles by textual critics in my library, reaching back to the beginning of the 19th century. This material

represents a mass of contradiction and change and uncertainty. Rarely do these critics as much as mention God and His providential care of the Scriptures. Their faith is not in God but in scholarship.

I reject this, and I reject the theories of these critics. I have an absolute Bible and an absolute theology, and I praise God for His promises to preserve the same for His people. I receive the Bible which was handed down to me from my believing forefathers, the Bible which was formed in a more honorable hour than the one in which I live, the Bible which has upon it the blood of the martyrs, the Bible which has been persecuted and despised by the enemies of the once-delivered Faith. I see the hand of God in history, protecting the text, guiding the editors and translators. My faith is not in Erasmus or in Beza or in the Authorized Version committee. My faith is in God. If the pure Word of God is not represented in the Received Text and the honorable 16th and 17th century translations thereof, God's promise of preservation failed and the pure Scriptures will never be recovered.